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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of GermanyREPORT NO. [REDACTED]TOPIC 5th Volkspolizei Bereitschaft in Weissenfels

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EVALUATION [REDACTED]

OBTAINED

Germany [REDACTED]DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED]DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED]DATE PREPARED 19 September 1950REFERENCES [REDACTED]PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]REMARKS [REDACTED]**RETURN TO CIA
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1. On 13 August 1950 it was learned that the 5th VP Bereitschaft (Inf) in Weissenfels (N 52/J 99) was commanded by VP-Oberrat Nickel, (fnu), who recently received the assignment. He received routine orders from VP-Rat Mikhailov, (fnu), the Soviet Army liaison officer. VP-Oberrat Teichfischer, (fnu), the previous commanding officer of the 5th VP Bereitschaft, had been assigned to a position in the Encke Kaserne, Magdeburg (N 53/Y 60), and was allegedly later transferred to Torgau (N 52/E 64).
2. The weapons of the 5th VP Bereitschaft included model 98 K carbines, manufactured in 1950, assault rifles, automatic rifles with telescopic sights, model 42 light machine guns, model 08 heavy machine guns and medium mortars. *
3. The personnel of the Bereitschaft came from the Magdeburg area and had signed up for a two-year period of police service. Replacements were expected to arrive by 1 October 1950.
4. In August 1950 a 4th (heavy) Kommando was being activated to be a part of the 5th VP Bereitschaft. The 4th Kommando consisted of three platoons, each with three heavy machine gun sections of ten men each, including the section leader, and three heavy mortar teams of three men each. It was planned to add to each existing Kommando which is organized into three platoons of three light machine gun sections, a fourth heavy platoon of two sections, each with one model 03 heavy machine gun. Each section of the heavy platoons was to be composed of a section leader carrying a pistol, a first and second machine gunner carrying pistols, a third and fourth machine gunner carrying assault rifles, three men with rifles having telescopic sights, and three men with automatic rifles. **
5. Arms drill and field training were performed in accordance with the German Armed Forces procedure. Only the method of taking up a position of all-round defense was based on Soviet experience. Special VP manuals have not been observed with the unit.
6. In mid-August 1950, the Pionier Kaserne in Weissenfels was vacated and beds, closets and other billeting equipment made available for further use. Replacements were expected to arrive soon. ***

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~~Comment.~~ The 5th VP Bereitschaft (Inf) of Land Saxony/Anhalt was repeatedly reported in the Artillerie Kaserne on Zeitzerstrasse, Weissenfels. See

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~~Comment.~~ The organization of a Kommando (company) into four Abteilungen (platoons), which is generally observed, and the activation of a fourth Kommando with the 5th VP Bereitschaft in Weissenfels were reported by another source as early as January 1950.

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~~Comment.~~ The reinforcement of the Bereitschaften by replacements is expected to take place about October 1950 upon completion of the training courses at the VP schools.

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